

Progress Through Knowledge Success Story ID# 20-073107-01

You may have noticed that we haven't had our usual quarterly advisory committee meeting; however, KAL-TEC is still going strong. We plan to host a meeting mid-Fall, once our semester has been kicked off, so be on the look out for a notice. In the meantime, here are a few things that we have been up to and few IMPRESSIVE things that have taken place:

* We are hosting a KAL-TEC OPEN HOUSE to help kick off our Fall semester and catalog on Tuesday, August 28, from 3-7:00 pm, at the Kalkaska Michigan WORKS! Center. We are expecting this to be a bit more low-key than past KAL-TEC events, but I'd be happy for any volunteers who would be interested in coming to talk with visitors and meet our students. So, please let me know if you would be interested in doing so!

* In an effort to tackle the crippling statistic that 20% of Kalkaska County's workforce is without a high school diploma or GED (source: Benchmarks Northwest Survey, 2003), I've decided that taking a more creative approach would be necessary to helping these individuals attain this credential and meet this daunting milestone. As a test project, Wayne Wire Cloth Products has agreed to help their employees without high school diplomas or GEDs. For the first time ever, we've taken our GED Prep class directly to a company. Wayne Wire is paying for the class and tests for 15 employees! They are now about half way through a class. 10 other Wayne Wire employees are acting as mentors, tutors, and cheerleaders to encourage the class members to finally get this done. This is an inspiring step toward assisting individuals in their pursuit of an educational credential! So, when you get a minute, be sure to compliment Wayne Wire for their efforts, encouragement, and obvious understanding of how important education is within their workplace. In addition, 2 employees from Kalkaska Memorial Health Center have also joined the class being held at Wayne Wire. So, thank KMHC for their work and encouragement too! IF any other employers would be interested in doing something similar at your place of work ... call me right away, because I think we might just be onto something!!!

* Our new and improved Fall 2007 CATALOG is almost ready to go to print and each of you will personally be sent a catalog as soon as we have them. The new schedule has been posted on the KAL-TEC web site: www.KAL-TEC.org <<http://www.kal-tec.org/>> so check it out when you get a chance. We currently have another 42 classes (and, many NEW ones!) scheduled and ready to begin mid-September.

* A FEW NEW COURSES TO HIGHLIGHT (brought to you by request): How to Read & Interpret Financial Statements; Survival for the Up North

Retailer; Intro to PowerPoint; Word: mastering mail merge; Windows XP: tips, tricks, and shortcuts; Intermediate Excel; Intro to Access; Administrative Basics of the Medical Office (med billing series); and, Intro to Durable Medical Equipment (DME) Billing (med billing series).

* **FREE KAL-TEC CLASSES & WORKSHOPS.** More than ever before, KAL-TEC offers several classes and workshops free of charge; however, registration is required. The following is a list of all of our upcoming **FREE** classes and workshops to make note of: business & personal skills for success workshop, 4 job club workshops, stress management workshop, anger management workshop, preparing to quit smoking workshop, conflict resolution workshop, career assessment/individualized meetings, and 6 adult education classes. Many of these workshops would be very easy and convenient for you to take directly to your place of work for some quick seminars over lunch breaks, etc. So, keep that in mind!

* **SCHOLARSHIPS** are still available! If someone that you know is interested in taking courses and worried about how to afford them, a person who either **LIVES** or **WORKS** in Kalkaska County will be eligible to receive up to 40% OFF 3 or more classes per semester. And yes, county lines continue to be highly transparent when scholarships are in question ... so, just ask.

* **KAL-TEC statistics (cumulative).** Since KAL-TEC was officially kicked off in April 2006, KAL-TEC has published 3 course catalogs and offered 180 different community-based courses/trainings provided by 10 different educational providers.

- o 434 students have enrolled in 729 class seats.
- o An additional 209 new adult education students have received 4,198 hours of instruction.
- o 37 students have enrolled in post-secondary programs working toward occupational certificates, associate degrees, or bachelor degrees.
- o 1 company hosted a personal-enrichment class held onsite for 35 of its employees.
- o 20 different job related skills upgrading classes were provided to 6 different companies for 204 employees.
- o 35 students have earned 40 certificates in the following categories: Communication Skills, CPR, First Aid, Pediatric First Aid,

Personal Finance Management, Skills for Success, and Certified Nurse Aide state endorsements. (More statistics are included in the attached Word document.)

* 50% EMPLOYER REIMBURSEMENT SCHOLARSHIP. Employers: remember that

we have available a special pot of scholarship funds meant only for you! You will be reimbursed 50% of the cost for classes to which you send employees. Look at this as an opportunity to improve your staff's job performance, employee morale, or productivity on the job. Please call me if you have any questions regarding this. And yes, depending on your NEED, we may be able to bring the training or class right to you!

As you can see, we have been incredibly busy and thought it time to send you an official KAL-TEC update! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any ideas that you might have for KAL-TEC, your company, a potential student, or otherwise. I hope that you are all having a fabulous summer and do stay in touch!

Thank you again for your support and encouragement,

~Annie

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